

EMBASSY UPDATES

NEWSLETTER FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN VIETNAM

U.S. EMBASSY HANOI • U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL HO CHI MINH CITY

SEPTEMBER 2020

Routine U.S. Citizen Services

Please use our online scheduling system (<http://bit.ly/acs-slot>) to request passport and notarial appointments for the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and Consulate HCMC. The U.S. government has gradually resumed production of regular full-validity passports and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBAs), wait times may be longer than usual due to limited capacity.

***Failure to obtain an appointment or arrive on time for any service may result in being denied entry.**

**** If you have recently traveled to central Vietnam please see page 4.**

Americans in Quarantine—Contact us

U.S. citizens currently under quarantine, in self-isolation or stranded in Vietnam can notify the U.S. Embassy of Hanoi or U.S. Consulate HCMC of their situation by submitting an online inquiry at <https://bit.ly/2xuZqop>.

NOTE: Those wishing the U.S. Embassy or Consulate share information about their situation with friends, family, and loved ones will need to attach a completed Privacy Act Waiver (<https://bit.ly/2yeLe3a>) to their inquiry.

COVID-19 Updates

For the latest Covid-19 information go to <http://bit.ly/vncovid>.

Holidays & Upcoming Events

September 2: National Day



September 7: U.S. Labor Day



September 22: Voting Facebook Live Stream with Consul General Marie Damour 18:00

NOTE: The two previously scheduled Đà Nẵng events have been cancelled.

Important Announcements

Notarial Services:

Due to COVID-19, the Ho Chi Minh City ACS unit will decrease the number of regular notarial appointments. To assist people who urgently need a notarization, ACS will offer additional appointments on the following Wednesdays: September 9 & 23. Please visit: <https://bit.ly/acs-slot> to schedule your appointment. If no appointments are available, and you have an urgent request, please submit an online request form at <http://bit.ly/acsvn> with an explanation about your emergency situation.

We are able to accept your Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) or ballot in person Monday—Friday from 8:30-11:30 and 13:30-16:00 or by appointment at: <http://bit.ly/acsvn>.

Vietnamese Visa Extension:

For the latest guidelines visit the Vietnamese immigration website: <https://xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn>



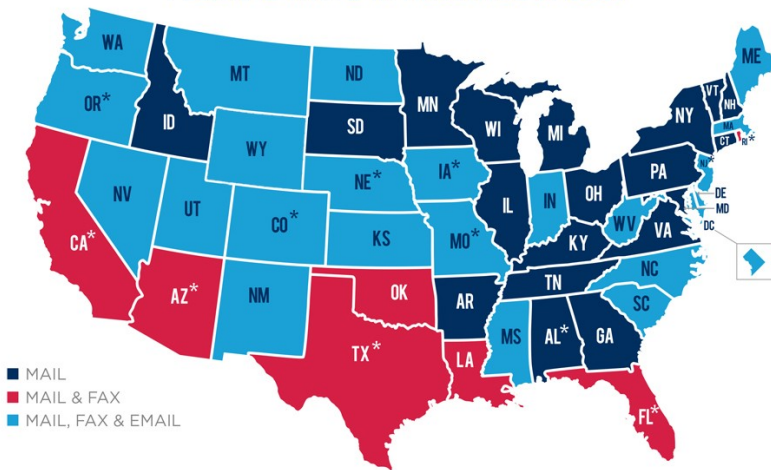
American Citizen Services

Contact us if you have any questions at:

Embassy Hanoi 24/7: (024) 3850-5000 • U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City 24/7: (028) 3520-4200

ACS Inquiry Form: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/acs-inquiry-form/>

FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT



Absentee Voting State-by-State

Due to Covid-19 many states are allowing absentee ballots by fax or email. For more information go to <https://www.fvap.gov/covid-19>. For information on how to submit your voting materials from Vietnam go to <https://vn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/voting/> or email votevietnam@state.gov.



STEP Enrollment

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. STEP provides important updates from the Embassy regarding conditions in your destination country and can help the Embassy contact you in an emergency.

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

Follow us Online

U.S. Embassy Hanoi



U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City



Useful Information for LPRs During COVID-19

If you are a U.S. lawful permanent resident (LPR) stranded outside of the United States due to COVID-19, you may find the information below useful. U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) retains jurisdiction over the status of LPRs and any request for official guidance should be directed to them.

[Click here for more info.](#)

Celebrating 25 years of U.S./Vietnam Bilateral Relations

This year marks the 25th anniversary of U.S.—Vietnam bilateral relations. The U.S. Mission to Vietnam is commemorating this anniversary by highlighting the various ways our bilateral relationship advances our shared ideals. This month the U.S. Mission is showcasing the importance of U.S. Agricultural products.

Earlier this month, Consul General Marie Damour visited ABC Bakery, where she witnessed traditional Vietnamese flavored mooncakes baked with high-quality ingredients such as California cheese and U.S. oats and wheat. These mooncakes represent the strong linkage between our two countries. When we bake together, we stay together!



| Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern | Numerical Value | Meaning |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Good | 0 to 50 | Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk |
| Moderate | 51 to 100 | Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution. |
| Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups | 101 to 150 | Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected. |
| Unhealthy | 151 to 200 | Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects. |
| Very Unhealthy | 201 to 300 | Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected. |
| Hazardous | 301 to 500 | Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects. |

Air Quality for Vietnam

The U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate have air quality monitors to measure PM 2.5 particulates as an indication of the air quality. You can check the current reading for Hanoi [here](#) and HCMC [here](#). The air monitors convert PM 2.5 readings into an air quality index (AQI). For more information on AQI and how it is calculated please visit: <https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>.

Vietnam issues e-Visa for Americans

The Vietnamese government rolled out an electronic visa (e-Visa) program for citizens from 80 different countries, including US citizens, earlier this year. Visitors with e-visas can enter Vietnam at eight international airports, 16 international land border gates, or 13 seaports across the country.

Although Vietnam has suspended the issuance of visas due to the global pandemic, Americans can take advantage of this new program once Vietnam resumes issuing visas to foreigners.

Our Commitment to Fighting Fraud

All appointments are free for U.S. Citizens, including passports, notary services, and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad. [This website](#) has detailed instructions about service costs and required documents for each service.

If you wish to report fraudulent activity related to any of the Consular services we provide, please contact our Consular Fraud Prevention Unit at HCMCFPU@state.gov for Ho Chi Minh City or HanoiFPU@state.gov for Hanoi.

US Citizens with Emergencies, please call:

- Embassy Hanoi 24/7: (024) 3850-5000 within Vietnam or +8424-3850-5000 internationally.
- U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City 24/7: (028) 3520-4200 within Vietnam; or +8428-3520-4200 internationally.

For information about general, non-emergency services provided by U.S. Citizen Services, including urgent appointment requests, please contact us via our [ACS inquiry form](#).

Vietnam Travel Advisory: Level 3

The Department of State downgraded its [travel advisory](#) for U.S. Citizens interested in traveling to Vietnam. The current Level 3 advisory recommends all U.S. Citizens Reconsider Travel to Vietnam due to Covid-19. Please visit the U.S. Embassy and Consulate's website (below) to see information on entry restrictions, quarantine policies, and urgent health information for Vietnam. <https://vn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/>

Update on U.S. Passport Operations

To see the current update on passport operations in response to Covid-19 visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/passport-covid-19.html>

Updated Guidance on Monitoring At-Risk People Coming from COVID-19-Affected Localities

The tables below outline the latest HCMC guidance for health reporting, quarantining, and testing - including specific locations and their attending risk categories. Below are the requirements for each category.

| No | Province/City | Specific Locations | Period | At-risk Cat |
|----|---------------|--|------------|-------------|
| 1 | Hai Duong | Hai Duong City | Aug 14-now | Group 2 |
| | | | Aug 7-13 | Group 3 |
| 2 | Ha Noi | Hospital E | Aug 19-now | Group 2 |
| | | | Aug 12-18 | Group 3 |
| | | Other areas | Aug 6-now | Group 4 |
| 3 | Da Nang | Whole city | Aug 6-now | Group 2 |
| 4 | Quang Nam | Hoi An City | Aug 14-now | Group 2 |
| | | | Aug 7-13 | Group 3 |
| | | Dien Ban, Dai Loc, Duy Xuyen, Thang Binh | Aug 15-now | Group 2 |
| | | | Aug 8-14 | Group 3 |
| | | Other districts | Aug 6-now | Group 4 |
| 5 | Quang Tri | Dong Ha City | Aug 10-now | Group 2 |
| | | | Aug 3-9 | Group 3 |
| | | Other districts | Aug 6-now | Group 4 |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Group 1 | Individuals who had close contact with confirmed COVID-19 patients: Requires centralized quarantine (Level 3 quarantine) at city or district-level quarantine facilities; COVID-19 testing. |
| Group 2 | Individuals who departed an area where strict social distancing requirements were in place (Directive 16/CT-TTg): Requires centralized quarantine (Level 3 quarantine) at district-level quarantine facilities; COVID-19 testing |
| Group 3 | Individuals who have been to venues determined by the Vietnamese Ministry of Health as high-risk: Requires <u>Self-quarantine at home</u> (Level 2 quarantine); COVID-19 testing may be required if individual presents COVID-19 symptoms |
| Group 4 | All others: Self-monitor health condition; COVID-19 testing may be required if individual presents COVID-19 symptoms |